

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION FACT SHEET

USDA's national organic regulations list inputs that are allowed in organic crop production. With some exceptions, all natural (non-synthetic) inputs are allowed and synthetic products are prohibited. This fact sheet outlines how to determine if an input material meets the USDA organic regulations and would be allowed for use on an organic farm.

To be sold or labeled as organic, products must be produced and handled without the use of synthetic products, excluded methods, such as GMO technology, ionizing radiation, and sewage sludge. The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances outlines criteria and exceptions to this rule. **7CFR §205.105**

Recognized input lists

WSDA Organic Input List <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration>

National List of Allowed & Prohibited Substances

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list>

Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI): <http://omri.org>

California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Input Material Program

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/fertilizer_OIM.html

Helpful Tips

- Input labels may use "organic" to refer to the product chemistry (containing carbon compounds) rather than its approval for use in organic agriculture. Look for the WSDA Approved for use in Organic Production seal or the OMRI logo on product labels.
- Consider how the input is being used. Products may be approved for a specific use and prohibited under other circumstances.
- Check names carefully. A one letter difference in a brand name may distinguish a compliant product from a noncompliant version.
- Input materials may not disclose all the inactive ingredients on a label. 100% of the ingredients must be evaluated for compliance. If you cannot determine all the ingredients, don't use the input on your organic or transitional site.

Definitions

Non-synthetic (natural): A substance derived from a mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process.

Synthetic: A substance formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources. It does not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.

Input Material Decision Tree



Additional Resource:

NOP Guidance: Materials for Organic Crop Production (NOP 5034)

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP-5034.pdf>



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